

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ISO-00

NSC-05 DODE-00 /063 W

----- 013676

R 141639Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4398

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18675

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, WB, GE, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET REMARKS ON CBM OBSERVERS

REFS: (A) USBER 2234 (NOTAL)

(B) BONN 13285 DTG 151641Z AUG 75

(C) STATE 208645 DTG 030103Z SEP 75

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY LIAISON MISSION (MLM) MEMBERS ACTING AS CBM MANEUVER OBSERVERS. EARLY IN US-FRG BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF OBSERVER INVITATIONS FOR EXERCISE REFORGER, THE FRG INDICATED IT WOULD HAVE LEGAL PROBLEMS IF THE SOVIETS DESIGNATED MLM MEMBERS AS OBSERVERS. THE SUBJECT AROSE AT THE NOVEMBER 11 TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP MEETING, WITH THE FRENCH REP ASKING WHAT WAS THE BASIS OF THE NEGATIVE US/UK POSITION. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE US SHOULD BE MOST WARY ABOUT AN EXPANDED MLM ROLE AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

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1. WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST USBER'S REPORTS OF EX-

CHANGES BETWEEN ALLIED MILITARY LIAISON MISSION (MLM) PERSONNEL AND THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS ON CBM OBSERVERS. WE SEE AT LEAST TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF THE REMARKS BY CHIEF, SERB. FIRST, THE SERB CHIEF COULD IN FACT BE LAUNCHING A TRIAL BALLOON THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO DESIGNATING CBM MANEUVER OBSERVERS PROVIDED THE DESIGNEE WERE A MEMBER OF A SOVIET MILITARY LIAISON MISSION. A SECOND POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION IS THAT THE CHIEF, SERB, HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED BY HIS GOVERNMENT AS TO WHOM INVITATIONS WERE EXTENDED. ACCORDINGLY, HE COULD BE PROBING FOR INFORMATION WHICH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM.

2. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT EARLY-ON IN FRG-US CONSULTATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF MANEUVER NOTIFICATION AND INVITATION OF OBSERVERS TO REFORGER, THE FRG POINTED OUT IT WOULD HAVE LEGAL PROBLEMS SHOULD THE SOVIETS DESIGNATE MLM MEMBERS AS OBSERVERS (REF B). PRECISELY TO AVOID THIS AND OTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, THE FRG DEVELOPED A POSITION THAT CSCE PARTICIPATING STATES COULD DESIGNATE OBSERVERS ONLY FROM THEIR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN BONN. THE USG EVENTUALLY AGREED TO THIS POSITION AND THE INVITATIONS IN FACT WERE EXTENDED IN THIS MANNER. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THE GERMANS ARE ANY MORE INTERESTED NOW THAN THEY WERE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IN EXTENDING OBSERVER INVITATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET MLM LOCATED IN THE FRG.

3. SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE MLM ROLE AS CBM OBSERVERS WAS DISCUSSED AT NOVEMBER 11 TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP MEETING. UK REP (HITCH) REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF FRENCH POSITION SINCE IT APPEARED TO BE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE NEGATIVE US/UK POSITION ON SUCH A ROLE. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID SERB HAD ALSO RAISED MATTER WITH FRENCH MLM OFFICER, WHO RESPONDED THAT HE WAS UNINSTRUCTED. BOISSIEU THEN ASKED WHAT WAS BASIS OF US/UK POSITION: WAS IT A DESIRE TO KEEP MLM IN TRADITIONAL ROLE AND NOT EXPAND FUNCTIONS OR WAS IT AIMED AT KEEPING SOVIET TRAINED TECHNICIANS FROM OBSERVING MANEUVERS IN FRG. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. US REP SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT HE THOUGHT BASIS OF PRESENT THINKING WAS TO AVOID EXPANSION OF SOVIET MLM COMPETENCIES. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT ALSO SEEMED THAT AN INSTITUTIONAL ROLE IN CBM OBSERVANCE FOR MLM'S WAS VIRTUALLY PRECLUDED. SMLM'S ARE OCCUPATION LEGACIES ACCREDITED TO US, FRENCH, AND UK CINCS IN FRG -- FOR LIAISON BETWEEN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS -- AND NOT TO

BONN GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD THUS BE DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT BONN WOULD WISH TO INVITE THE SMLM'S AS INSTITUTIONS TO OBSERVE MANEUVERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF INVITATIONS ARE CHANGED IN THE FUTURE, THE INVITED STATE MAY BE ABLE TO SEND ANYONE IT WISHES. IN THIS CASE, INDIVIDUALS FROM MLMS COULD CONCEIVABLY PARTICIPATE.

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5. UK REP SAID LONDON HAD MADE THREE POINTS TO EMBASSY ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH FRG WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DISCUSSED IN BONN GROUP: (A) IT WAS NOT DESIRABLE TO EXPAND ROLE OF MLMS; (B) IF SMLM SHOULD HAVE ROLE IN CBM MANEUVER OBSERVANCE, THE QUESTION OF ENTRY INTO PRAS AND TRAS WOULD ARISE; AND (C) THERE WAS A QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY INVOLVED.

6. IN REVIEWING THE GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON CBM OBSERVERS, WE CANNOT FIND ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE

EXCLUSION OF SOVIET MILITARY LIAISON MISSION PERSONNEL FROM ACTING IN SUCH A ROLE. HOWEVER, A RECENT MESSAGE FROM CINCUSAREUR (051109Z NOV 75) TO CINCEUR AND INFO, INTER ALIA, TO EMBASSY BONN CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

"DURING A TRIPARTITE MEETING OF MILITARY LIAISON MISSION (MLM) CHIEFS ON 17 OCT 75, IT WAS AGREED THAT, IN SPITE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE FACT THAT THE MLMS WOULD BE IDEALLY SUITED FOR THE ROLE OF EXERCISE OBSERVERS AND COULD OBTAIN USEFUL INFORMATION, THE POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS/IMPLICATIONS HAVE PRECEDENCE AND FAR OUTWEIGH ANY IMMEDIATE GAIN. THE RATIONALE, PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED AND CONCURRED IN BY THE ACSI, DA, FOR NOT USING USMLM IN A MBFR VERIFICATION ROLE, ALSO APPLIES TO THIS SUBJECT, I.E., THEIR USE, IN THIS ROLE COULD WELL LEAD TO A REDEFINING OF USMLM'S RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS AND IMPOSITION OF MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS THAN NOW EXIST. ANY SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD DECREASE THEIR CAPABILITY TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR MORE IMPORTANT COLLECTION EFFORT. USMLM HAS BEEN TASKED, HOWEVER, TO BE ALERT FOR ANY INDICATIONS OF NONCOMPLIANCE BY CSCE PARTICIPANTS IN ANNOUNCING MANEUVERS AND WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT ALL SOVIET APPROACHES ON THIS SUBJECT."

7. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES WE SHOULD BE MOST WARY ABOUT ANY EXPANDED ROLE FOR MILITARY LIAISON MISSIONS, AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DETAIL REASONS IF THE QUESTION CAME UP FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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